

Wednesday, November 05, 2008

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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

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FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Police want rifles stored in schools

Associated Press
November 5, 2008

Coeur d'Alene police have asked school officials to allow officers to bring their patrol rifles into city schools so that officers will be more capable of protecting students.

Capt. Ron Clark, supervisor of the school resource officers, said they need more firepower because school shootings typically involve heavily armed attackers.

He said the rifles would be locked in gun safes in the schools and the officers would be the only ones with access to them.

"If it's out in their vehicle in the parking lot, that wouldn't be a situation where they'd be able to get to that rifle," Clark said.

The rifles can be used to shoot assailants up to about 1,200 feet, Clark said, while the handguns officers carry have an effective range of only about 75 feet.

He noted the length of the hallways in schools can be nearly 200 feet.

Clark cited a January incident where a person parked about 500 feet away from Lake City High School with a high-powered rifle in the vehicle.

"Luckily, we were able to take him down without any incident, but that just showed the need, that there was a lot of feet in distance that we have to cover," Clark said.

In that incident, a former student was arrested after police said his mother called them to say her son had been behaving erratically and might have weapons.

Clark said officers would carry the rifles into the school in duffel bags in an unloaded and "broke-down configuration."

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

11-year-old Moscow boy has a monster tale to tell

McDonald Elementary School student's story published in children's literary magazine

By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Tuesday, November 04, 2008

Geoff Crimmins/Daily News

Now that Hugh Cole has had his first taste of being a published author he's hungry for more.

The 11-year-old Moscow boy has a story published in the November/December issue of "Stone Soup," a magazine that consists of children's stories, poems, book reviews and artwork.

"It's about a boy named Flynn and he can talk to animals, so he gets into some adventures with that," said Cole, a sixth-grader at McDonald Elementary School.

Flynn runs into trouble when a monster called an "Alarcon" decides it wants to steal his ability. As he attempts to evade the Alarcon, Flynn learns more about his ability and where it came from.

Cole said he "just kind of liked the idea" of a boy who talks to animals.

"It dinged in my mind, and I thought it would be cool so I started writing about it," he said.

According to the "Stone Soup" Web site, the magazine receives about 250 submissions per week, or 13,000 per year. It puts out just six issues each year.

Cole started working on "Flynn" last year in a writing class with Moscow Gifted and Talented Program teacher Gail Sipe.

Sipe said Cole would write a bit of his story, and then say "I'm done." It was an announcement Sipe and Cole's fellow students refused to accept.

"We just said, 'OK, you need to write more. We want to know what happens,' " Sipe said.

Cole may not have appreciated the urging at the time, but now he's glad it paid off.

Cole said he was excited to learn his story had been selected for publication. He's started many stories that he's never finished, but getting published has inspired him to write more complete stories.

Right now he's working on a story about a squirrel that he'd like to get published in the same magazine.

"It's going to be cool," he said.

Cole lives in Moscow with his parents and five brothers and sisters.

He spends his free time reading and wood-working with his dad, Jesse Cole. Sometimes they make practical household items like bookshelves and coat hooks, but they've also tackled more adventurous projects like a canoe and wooden swords.

Cole's favorite books to read are adventure stories, like the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and the "Harry Potter" series. He also likes "Eragon," which is part of a trilogy by author Christopher Paolini - who happens to have started writing them at the age of 15.

Cole said he'd like to try writing his own full-length novel - and soon.

"Maybe I can break (Paolini's) record," he said.

Cole also delivers newspapers along a route that includes Sipe's home.

One of her newspapers included some additional information.

"We travel all over during the summer and when I came home I got a note in my newspaper that said, 'I got published!' " Sipe said.

She left him her own note of congratulations the next day.

OUR VIEW: Former university officials paid too much (Editorial)

By Doug Bauer, for the editorial board

Posted on: Tuesday, November 04, 2008

They're not the kind of golden parachutes being handed out to corporate bigwigs, but some former University of Idaho and Washington State University administrators are landing rather softly after leaving their positions.

Former UI College of Engineering Dean Aicha Elshabini stepped down last month, leaving the college scrambling to find a replacement to lead it through the university's "reprioritization" process.

For some reason, the UI has found it necessary to continue paying Elshabini her annual dean's salary of about \$230,831 for the next six months.

Her salary will be reduced to \$184,668 thereafter, but those of us outside the Administration Building are left to wonder why she deserves to continue being compensated for a job she is no longer doing.

In that way, her situation isn't much different than that of former WSU provost Steven Hoch, who was demoted last month following a run-in with a senior administrator.

Hoch is being paid \$245,000 a year as a faculty member in the history department simply because of some fine print in the job offer he received from the university.

That's about three times the annual salary paid to his new peers, and represents a serious waste of taxpayer money considering the return on the state's investment.

It's not as though Hoch or Elshabini would starve on straight faculty salaries in a region where the median income is nowhere near that of your average tenured professor.

Both universities are in the midst of hiring freezes and are seeking to cut programs and reduce spending as the nation dangles on the precipice of a prolonged recession.

We suggest they start looking at the top, because Elshabini and Hoch probably aren't the only ones being paid big bucks for work that isn't being performed.

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Options reportedly being considered for LCSC land

Tribune

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Options are being examined for the use of about 56 acres of land owned by Lewis-Clark State College on the north side of Warner Avenue, Lewiston Parks and Recreation Director Lynn C. Moss said.

He declined to say what the options might be, however.

The college purchased the land jointly with the city and Lewiston School District in 2004 for a total of \$1.53 million for 309 acres.

The agreement among the three entities called for the city to pay \$671,190 for 163.2 acres; the school district \$515,407 for 85.1 acres; and LCSC \$356,346 for 56.7 acres.

LCSC officials said at the time a truck driving school would be located there. When a grant application was unsuccessful, the school was put in North Lewiston.

The college still is obligated for its share of the land development costs, such as mutually beneficial streets and utilities, but it doesn't have to come up with the money until services are

extended onto its 56 acres, Moss told the Lewiston City Council Monday. If the land is sold, the obligation goes to the new owner.

That means the city and school district are fronting the money for street and utility construction.

Mayor Douglas Havens asked Moss questions about the process at the council work session. Havens said he's not happy with that arrangement. When Havens voted, he expected the three entities to split expenses as they were incurred.

Because there's no interest or inflation factor, the college or its successor will pay off the debt with dollars that are worth less than they are now, Councilor Jim Kluss said.

But it could have gone the other way if LCSC had been first to obtain a grant, Moss said.

The college's share of the land is on the northern end, beyond where the city is developing a new park and the school district hopes to build a new high school. A bond election will be conducted next year for the school.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

Grant provides healthy snacks for students

Alisa Angelakis

aangelakis@idahopress.com Updated 10 hours 10 minutes ago TREASURE VALLEY

— Many Idaho elementary students are eating more fresh fruits and vegetables thanks to a federal grant.

Thirty Idaho elementary schools have received grants to fund The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program that provides healthy and nutritious snacks throughout the school day.

Nampa's Willow Creek Elementary, Wilder's Holmes Elementary and Marsing Elementary were among the Idaho schools to receive the grant for the 2008-09 school year.

About the program

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is part of an initiative by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to offer schools a wider variety of fresh produce than would be available through normal USDA programs, such as the National School Lunch Program.

Idaho was one of 13 states to pilot the program, which has now been expanded to all 50 states.

"The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is a great way for Idaho educators to not only provide students with healthier snack options throughout the school day but to also teach students about the importance of healthy eating habits," Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said.

The fresh fruit and vegetables must be provided at a different time than the school lunch or breakfast programs.

Schools received the grants through a competitive application process.

Grant encourages healthy habits at local schools
Willow Creek received the largest grant in the state at \$33,500.

The program provides fresh fruits and vegetables as snacks twice a week for the school's nearly 700 students, Allison Westfall, spokeswoman for the Nampa School District, said.

The snacks are in addition to the school's regular lunch program, which, like all Nampa schools, includes fresh fruit and salad bars for students.

Willow Creek kitchen manager Suzanne Sein said in addition to the food, students receive information to learn more about what they eat.

"They just love it," Julie Thomas, first-grade teacher, said. "I was surprised how many eat everything, but they're hungry and they see everyone else eating it, too."

Second-grade teacher Laura Labrum said the snacks provide a healthy afternoon pick-me-up for her students.

Principal Marie Clark said the school's staff is teaching monthly nutrition lessons, and healthy eating information and recipes will be going home to students' families.

"It's a great opportunity for our school community. We've had a very positive response from our staff, students and parents," she said.

Lil Stewart, principal at Marsing Elementary, said the grant provides a daily snack for the school's 418 students. Marsing received a grant in the amount of \$20,500.

"We call it 'brain food,'" she said. "We just love it."

Stewart said the school teaches the children good manners, such as saying "please" and "thank you," as part of the program.

Many of the students have tried foods they've never experienced before, Stewart said.

"Some of the tastes have been a first, like kiwi and fresh pineapple. It's been a really nice addition to our school. It helps tide the kids over until lunch, and they look forward to it every day."

Stewart said Marsing High School received the same grant last year, but the grant now has been rewritten to only include elementary schools.

"We were very fortunate to receive this," she said.

Jeff Dillon, principal at Holmes Elementary School, said the grant provides a daily snack for the student body of about 210. Holmes received a \$20,800 grant.

“We’re excited to have the opportunity to get our kids familiar with fruits and vegetables they know but also ones they don’t know,” he said.

Dillon said the healthy snack helps students stay focused during the day.

“When you get hungry, you get fidgety and it’s harder to focus,” he said. “It helps calm the kids down.”

Dillon said he had worked at an eastern Washington middle school that also offered the program.

“I saw a significant impact on the students and that’s why I was interested in the grant here,” he said.

- Nampa School District spokeswoman Allison Westfall contributed to this report.

Schools recognized for growth

Alisa Angelakis

aangelakis@idahopress.com Updated 10 hours 20 minutes ago BOISE

— The Idaho State Board of Education recognized 58 schools with an Exceptional Growth Award in October.

Ten of the schools are located in the Treasure Valley. The award isn’t monetary; each school receives a certificate of achievement.

Recognized schools

The following area schools received the Exceptional Growth Award:

Nampa School District

Central Elementary School

Lincoln Elementary School

Snake River Elementary School

Skyview High School

Caldwell School District

Van Buren Elementary School

Vallivue School District

Vallivue Middle School

Vallivue High School

Notus School District

Notus Elementary School

Homedale School District
Homedale Elementary School
Homedale Middle School

Report: Ed Board has repaired procedures

To receive the award, schools had to show growth of 20 percent or more with a specific group of children on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test.

Margo Healy, director of assessment and accountability for the state of Idaho, said this was the first year the award had been offered.

“We know that our schools have challenging populations and it can be difficult for them to get other awards,” she said. “We were looking for improvement and exceptional growth.”

Healy said the schools worked hard to attain this much success.

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

Shoshone School District bond fails

By Ben Botkin

Times-News writer

Shoshone School District voters decided against a \$7.5 million bond proposal for improvements to the school building on Tuesday.

Two-thirds of voter approval was needed to pass the bond issue.

School district officials had proposed the bonding as a way to provide for additional classrooms and more space for gym classes in the growing school district's building, which serves students from kindergarten through 12th grade and opened in 1998. The school district's enrollment has increased from 506 students in 2004 to 607 students currently.

The proposed bond would have increased the yearly property tax rate by \$1.41 for every \$1,000 of taxable value. For the owner of a house with \$100,000 of taxable value, that's an increase of \$141 in property taxes.

The bond was proposed as a way of funding a variety of improvements for the school district's building, including adding a gym/multi-purpose room, expanding the cafeteria, creating an elementary library, and addressing other concerns.

School district officials had anticipated putting all the improvements in place by the start of the 2010-2011 school year if the bond passed.

Correspondent Mary Hanson contributed to this story.

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

State offers after-school grants

POCATELLO — The Idaho State Department of Education has grants it will give to schools for after-school programs. Nov. 7 from 9 to 11 a.m., those considering applying for the funding can attend a bidder's workshop at the Alameda Center, band room, 845 McKinley Ave., Pocatello.

The workshop is free. Successful applicants will receive funding for up to five years. Applications are due Jan. 30, 2009, and notification will be April 30, 2009.

For more information, call 208-332-6960, e-mail CMcCashland@sde.idaho.gov or get an application at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cclc/grants.htm.

District 25 won't recommend new boundaries

BY CASEY SANTEE

csantee@journalnet.com

POCATELLO — School District 25's administration will recommend at the next board meeting that trustees vote against redrawing boundaries for the three main high schools.

The district has been considering several options for changing the boundaries, but administrators now say there is no need for such a change. The decision follows a series of public meetings in which citizens overwhelmingly favored maintaining the status quo.

The administrative recommendation was discussed during a board work session Tuesday at the Education Center, 3115 Pole Line Road.

"The boundaries have never been as balanced as they are right now," said Bart Reed, District 25 business manager.

Currently, Highland High School is at 88 percent of student capacity, while Pocatello and Century high schools are at 87 percent each, Reed said.

Superintendent Mary Vagner said she will further recommend that the district revisit the boundary issue if any of the three schools fall below 80 percent student capacity or rise above 90 percent.

The board, which took no action during Tuesday's meeting, also discussed several other matters, including:

Setting the amount of the 2009 supplemental levy as well as a date for an election, which is slated for February.

Further nailing down the details of next year's high school and middle school redesigns.

Whether or not the board needs to be involved with student discipline.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.